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Thus it is evinced that the greatest proportion of births takes place among the lowest class; next among those employed in out-door handicraft; then among in-door handicraftsmen; then among tradesmen; and lastly, among independent and professional people. Then we trace those persons who are most disposed to marry; viz., first, the out-door handicraftsmen, who have only 91 single out of 2,024; next tradesmen; then in-door handicraftsmen; then the manufacturing; and, lastly, the independent population. There are two or three other subjects which your Committee intended to have introduced fully into their Report, but they are prevented by the necessity of closing it, before the opportunity has been afforded of bringing out the details. These are the permanent Charity, the Benefit, and the Destitution Societies, distributed over the entire population. By permanent Charity, is meant the medical charities of the town, for the township; viz., the Infirmary, Dispensary, House of Recovery, Lying-in-Hospital, Eye and Ear Infirmary, and the medical dispensation of the Guardians of the Poor. By Benefit Societies is meant,—the Secret Orders and benefit clubs, which prevail in Leeds to a great extent, and have a material influence, not only on its population, but on its taxation. By its Destitution is meant the relief supplied by the Guardians of the Poor, except that given to vagrants. All of which information would have been highly interesting; and with respect to the Benefit Societies, exceedingly useful to their members. Your Committee, however, in conclusion, trust that the facts now presented, collected and collated at great personal trouble, will be sufficient evidence of the necessity of their labours; and they hope that these may lead the attention of the Councillors to the state of the wards which they represent, with the feeling that they are bound, by every principle of humanity, as well as of good faith, to redeem their pledges to the electors, and faithfully so to watch over and represent their local condition, that whether their wants or ills are social, moral, religious, or intellectual, they may be brought to the notice of the Council chamber, and means may be adopted to obtain their redress.

An Outline of the Commercial Statistics of Ceylon. By JOHN CAPPER, Esq., Corresponding Member of the Statistical Society of London.*

IMPRESSED with the belief that the Island of Ceylon will in a few years become one of our most productive, and, consequently, most wealthy and important colonies, in spite of the many obstacles thrown in its way

* Extract of letter from Mr. Capper, dated Colombo, April, 1839:—

“ The inclosed facts and calculations have been thrown together during a few hours of cessation from mercantile pursuits, in the hope that perhaps some of them may not prove altogether unacceptable to your Society. I admit that many of the subjects are touched upon very briefly, but at present Statistics are so little cared for in this corner of the world, that it is extremely difficult to obtain any correct information from those who are best able to give it. The returns of customs duties may, I believe, be relied upon with confidence; but as much cannot be said with

by the narrow-minded policy of the local government, the compiler of this paper has thought that a few facts collected together, having reference to the progress of commerce in this island, would, whilst they pointed out in what articles of production that improvement had taken place, also induce many to turn their attention to the natural capabilities and resources of the island, and at the same time might not prove altogether uninteresting to a society having for its object the collection and dissemination of statistical information. That Ceylon will shortly rise into considerable importance, no one who has resided in it for a twelvemonth can doubt. There are various causes in operation, all tending to the same end. The first, and not the least important of these, is the superiority of climate and soil, joined to abundance and cheapness of labour. It is only within these few years that the capability of this island for producing coffee and sugar as articles of export, has been tested on a scale of sufficient magnitude, and the result has been of a most unequivocal and satisfactory nature, both as regards the quality and cheapness of the articles.

Another cause operating in our favour is the more than doubtful prospects of the West India planters, on whose estates labour is dearer, (or at any rate will be, when the total emancipation of the slaves has taken place,) and the climate is less favourable than in Ceylon.

There is yet one more thing auspicious to our interests, although perhaps more distant and uncertain in its effects, this is the establishment of steam-ships to the east, making Point de Galle their place of rendezvous for passengers from the presidencies. This alone will give an additional stimulus to trade, as well as make the island more known to the world than at present.

Till within this year or two, everything in the island has been carried on under the old Dutch system of mystification and monopoly, and it will be some time before we recover from its baneful effects. Of the statistics of the island little or nothing is known. The only information we possess are the Returns of revenue and the census, the latter of which is believed to be a very careless and imperfect work. The natives do not care to give any information to the government agents, who, in their turn, are equally indifferent to the collection of correct data.

The first Return which I am able to present is a statement of the value of imports into the Island of Ceylon, in each year from 1833 to 1837.

regard to the population returns. The table of shipping, as far as it goes, is also pretty correct, but the number of native vessels or dhonies trading between Ceylon and the Indian Continent were given so differently by various parties, that I determined to leave them out altogether until I could obtain some more correct and official returns. This paper must be considered merely as an earnest of what I intend and hope to do when a little longer residence on the island shall have enabled me to gain and digest more important data. Previous to my quitting England, in a conversation with your Assistant Secretary, Mr. Deverell, that gentleman said that, on application, I could be elected a corresponding member of your Society: if there be no impediment to this, I would feel that election to be both a pleasure and an honour to me; and perhaps my membership would give me a facility in obtaining information beyond what I now possess. (Signed) "JOHN CAPPER."

"To the Secretary of the Statistical Society."

COUNTRIES.	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
From Great Britain	60,706	70,340	69,879	99,979	160,924
,, India	230,038	269,660	251,561	293,561	352,016
,, Other States	30,146	32,724	30,635	17,627	28,298
Total	320,891	372,725	352,076	411,167	541,239
NATURE OF ARTICLES.					
Beer	4,498	3,937	2,644	3,735	4,327
Cotton cloth	80,587	110,551	116,259	167,560	220,873
Earthenware	4,811	3,703	3,650	3,310	5,232
Grain	147,974	173,958	141,434	150,627	185,712
Iron	4,445	1,325	4,795	4,569	7,096
Millinery, Hosiery, &c.	778	5,091	4,180	6,609	9,488
Opium	2,205	1,394	1,315	1,360	1,580
Salt and Pickled Fish	3,250	1,705	2,307	3,556	6,718
Sugar	2,057	5,009	4,536	4,812	8,757
Spirits	4,978	4,097	2,374	2,829	3,659
Tea	1,463	1,673	1,471	1,286	1,835
Wines	16,592	12,958	9,813	10,832	21,117
Wheat	5,283	7,367	7,201	—	5,580
Sundries	41,964	41,952	50,089	50,074	59,250
Total	320,891	372,725	352,076	411,167	541,239

From the preceding table it will be seen that the imports have increased 70 per cent. between 1833 and 1837. Of this the greater portion is in our trade with Great Britain, which shows an increase of 10 per cent. from 1833 to 1835, and from that period to 1837 the enormous increase of 230 per cent. During the same periods our trade with India (import) increased respectively 9 and 40 per cent. And from other states the increase was about 1½ and 24 per cent.

Of the articles imported, those which show the greatest improvement are sugar, cotton, cloth, and millinery. Beer, tea, and wheat have remained almost stationary, while there has been a decided falling off in the annual consumption of opium and spirits, a most gratifying circumstance to the well-wishers of our labouring population.

It is, I believe, generally admitted that the consumption of necessary articles in every-day life keeps pace with the increasing population of a country, and that the demand for articles of comfort and luxury is in proportion to their advance in civilization and refinement. Allowing this, then, to be the case, we shall find, by a careful examination of the articles imported into Ceylon, that the increase has been chiefly, if not entirely, in those which administer to artificial wants and enjoyments; while upon the ordinary necessities of life there has been no greater increase than might be expected from a growing population. The importation of articles of luxury in 1837 shows an increase of 63½ per cent. over that of 1833; while the addition to the imports of ordinary articles of consumption in the same time is only 64 per cent.

If the Government Returns of the population be correct, it would appear that the share of each individual in the articles imported into Ceylon was, in 1833, 5s. 8½d.; in 1834, 6s. 4½d.; in 1835, it fell to

5s. $7\frac{1}{2}d.$, less than in 1833. In 1836 there was no census; but, judging of the increase of population by the preceding and following years, we may say that the average share of each was about 6s. 10d.; and, in 1837, it was 8s. $7\frac{1}{4}d.$ At first sight this may appear an incorrect statement from the insignificance of the sums, but calculations will bear out the truth of it.

Out of the million and a quarter, which is the present population of Ceylon, not 1,000 are Europeans, and about 5,000 or 6,000 are of Portuguese extraction. Of the natives there are about 200 head-men or petty princes, and perhaps 4,000 middlemen of some property and influence. These being deducted, there are 1,244,800, of whom we may say the 44,800 are of a superior class, being servants in families, warehouse-keepers, and messengers, and there then remain 1,200,000 of the very lowest order. These are mere coolies and labouring mechanics with their families. The number actually employed in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, including adults and children, is 613,000; leaving thus 587,000 old and young, incapable of labour. We may safely say that 600,000 of the above labourers are coolies (including some women and children), who earn 6d. a-day. They never work above half the year; their earnings will amount to 3*l.* 18*s.* in twelve months, and as there is for every one in a family capable of work another unfit for it, we shall find that the sum upon which each of this class exists is *l.* 19*s.* annually. The articles necessary to these people are simple, and almost entirely of native production. The cocoa-nut tree supplies them with food, fuel, oil, and domestic utensils. Fish and fruits are in abundance; and the only articles of a foreign nature are a little rice (a great deal being grown in the island) and a yard of cotton cloth for a girdle. The children, until the age of 10 or 12, do not even require the latter. This immense number of natives, therefore, cannot expend more than 2*s.* each annually in imported articles, and this difference will go to make up the amount expended by the other classes, European and native.

Ceylon is divided into five provinces, viz., the Central, Western, Northern, Eastern, and Southern. The four latter are trading provinces, the former agricultural only. The greater proportion of trade is carried on in the western province, the principal ports in which are Colombo and Chilaw. In 1833, we find that the amount of duties on imports into this province was 30,183*l.* In 1834, it was 35,672*l.* In 1835, the increase was not so great, the total value being but 36,491*l.* In the following year, however, the increase was near 5,000*l.*, the import duties amounting to 41,093*l.* In 1837, there appears a falling off in the customs, owing to the reduction of duties, and not to any decrease in the commerce, which has, on the contrary, materially increased. This year there seems to have been but 38,669*l.* collected in this province; there is, however, every reason to believe that the Customs' Returns for 1838 will show a considerable increase. In the northern province the chief ports are Manar and Tafna. The duties in 1833 were 4,139*l.*; in the succeeding year they had increased 50 per cent., being 6,681*l.*; but, in 1835, they fell to 5,543*l.* They amounted to 6,324*l.* in 1836; and, in 1837, they decreased to 6,225*l.* Trincomalee is the commercial port of the eastern province; but, although it has one of the finest harbours in the world, there is but a very trifling trade

carried on there, it being chiefly the rendezvous of men-of-war for provisions and repairs. In 1833, the import duties in this province amounted only to 1,657*l.*; and, in 1837, to no more than 2,316*l.* The southern province, having Galle for its principal port, ranks third in importations, the amount of customs' duties in 1833 being 4,057*l.* In 1834, the amount was but 3,333*l.*; in 1835, it rose to 4,008*l.* The following year there was a slight increase, the amount being 4,299*l.*; but, in 1837, it again fell off to 4,186*l.* The following is the proportion of the various articles imported into the four provinces:—In the western, rice is as 10, cloth 8, sundries from England 3½, sundries from other places 1¾; in the northern, rice is 10, cloth 3½, sundries from various states 1½; in the eastern, rice being 10, cloth is 13, sundries from England 1¼, and sundries from other places 4½; in the southern province, taking rice as 10, cloth will be 1½, sundries from England ½, and from other places 4. We thus find that rice, in proportion to other imports, is greatest in the southern province, and least in the eastern; that grain being cultivated in the greatest quantities in the latter province, and in the least quantities in the former.

We now arrive at the most interesting part of our inquiries, viz., that portion which relates to the produce of the island. The following table exhibits

The VALUE of the EXPORTS from the ISLAND OF CEYLON in each Year from 1833 to 1837.

COUNTRIES.	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
To Great Britain . . .	42,408	76,977	79,596	228,501	192,080
India . . .	87,216	62,502	104,018	91,939	87,767
Other States . . .	2,905	6,353	16,652	14,078	16,174
Total . . .	132,529	145,833	200,267	334,519	296,023
NATURE OF ARTICLES.					
Arrack	12,425	7,737	7,216	7,471	12,215
Arreca Nuts . . .	11,325	8,526	10,496	19,946	27,924
Cocoa Nuts. . .	5,630	4,243	6,710	3,557	6,048
Coffee	26,020	38,637	59,047	150,642	106,999
Coir (rope and loose)	8,512	5,198	5,333	15,109	8,142
Pearls	32,059	No fishery	40,346	25,816	16,087
Cinnamon . . .	8,272	35,559	22,664	58,494	49,263
Cocoa Nut Oil . . .	5,872	5,159	12,099	15,781	28,334
Sundries	22,411	40,772	36,352	37,700	41,008
Total . . . £	132,529	145,833	200,267	334,519	296,023

The improvement in the annual exports of Ceylon is far more rapid than in the imports; and this is the more gratifying when we consider the disadvantages under which this branch of our commerce labours, from the very unequal taxation imposed upon it, as compared with the imports. In 1837, when the imports amounted to the value of 541,239*l.*, the duties arising from them amounted to no more than 51,398*l.*; whilst, in the same year, the produce exported from the island, amounting to only 296,023*l.*, or rather more than half of the imports, was burthened with duties to the amount of 75,474*l.* In the former

case the tax paid to the Custom-house is only at the rate of 9½ per cent., but in the latter it is nearly tripled, being at the rate of 25½ per cent.

From the preceding table it will be seen that the increase of exports has taken place chiefly in the two articles of coffee and cocoa nut oil. Other articles have improved from time to time, but not with the steadiness of these two. Our coffee and cocoa nut oil being almost entirely shipped to Great Britain, it necessarily follows that our trade with that country has benefited most materially. The table shows this to be the case, for we see that, from 1833 to 1835, our exports to Great Britain had increased 185 per cent., and from that time to 1837 they had further risen 240 per cent. Our exports to the continent of India were the same in 1833 and 1837, although they had varied considerably in the intermediate years, which fluctuation the second table shows to have arisen from the variations in the produce of the pearl fisheries, pearls being exported exclusively to India.

Our trade with foreign states has also increased considerably. There was a difference of 250 per cent. in 1834 over the preceding year, and in 1835 of nearly 300 per cent. In 1836 it fell off, but in the following year maintained its former favourable position. The increase in this branch of our trade has been chiefly with France and North and South America. To the former country the staple article is cinnamon, and to the latter cocoa nut oil, coir rope, betel nuts, and cinnamon.

The law which prohibits articles from foreign countries being landed here by foreign vessels is highly detrimental to our trade with other states, and has caused similar prohibitory enactments on their part. Were it annulled, there can be little doubt that extensive operations would take place between us for wines and ornamental goods on the one hand, and spices and oil on the other.

A TABLE showing the PROPORTION of EXPORTS and IMPORTS to and from Various Countries.

Years.	GREAT BRITAIN.				INDIA.		
	Exports.	Imports.	Excess of Exports.	Excess of Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Excess of Imports.
1833	£. 42,408	£. 60,706	£. ..	£. 18,298	£. 87,216	£. 230,038	£. 142,822
1834	76,977	70,340	6,636	..	62,502	269,660	207,157
1835	79,596	69,879	9,716	..	104,018	251,561	147,542
1836	228,501	99,979	128,522	..	91,939	293,561	201,621
1837	192,080	160,924	31,156	..	87,767	352,016	264,248
Years.	OTHER STATES.				TOTAL.		
	Exports.	Imports.	Excess of Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.
1833	£. 2,905	£. 30,146	£. 27,241	£. 132,529	£. 320,891	£. 188,361	£. 188,361
1834	6,353	32,724	26,370	145,833	372,725	226,892	226,892
1835	16,652	30,635	13,983	200,267	352,076	151,808	151,808
1836	14,078	17,627	3,548	334,519	411,167	76,647	76,647
1837	16,174	28,298	12,124	296,023	541,239	245,216	245,216

In the western province the exports are principally to Great Britain ; about $\frac{1}{11}$ being to foreign states, $\frac{1}{7}$ to British colonies, and $\frac{1}{30}$ coastways. The articles shipped from this province are cinnamon, cocoa nut oil, coffee, coir rope, clove oil, arrack, cocoa nuts, and arreca nuts. The customs' duties on exports collected in this province in 1833 were 11,186*l.* ; in 1835 they amounted to 50,721*l.* ; and in 1837 they rose to the sum of 72,038*l.*, of which 67,166*l.* consisted of duties upon cinnamon.

The northern province exports chiefly to British colonies and coastways, with a trifling amount to foreign states, and nothing to Great Britain. The articles are principally tobacco, timber, and chanks. The export duties of this province in 1833 were 7,426*l.* ; in 1835, 5,765*l.* ; and in 1837, no more than 1,406*l.* The falling off has been in the trade to the colonies, as the coasting trade shows an increase. The decrease is in tobacco.

The export trade in the eastern province is very inconsiderable, being principally coastways, with some few articles to our colonies, consisting chiefly of cocoa nuts and arreca nuts. In 1833 the customs' duties on the exports of this province were hardly 100*l.* ; in 1835 they were no more than 36*l.* ; and in 1837 they rose to 165*l.*

The southern province exports to a considerable amount, owing to its port, Galle, being a dépôt for cinnamon, which spice is only permitted to be shipped at this place and Colombo. Besides cinnamon, it exports large quantities of arrack to the colonies, and chanks and cocoa nuts coastways. The cinnamon is shipped principally to Great Britain, although some quantity finds its way to foreign states. The duties on exports from this part of the island were, in 1833, 1,481*l.* ; in 1835, 5,665*l.* ; and in 1837, 9,066*l.* Of this latter sum not less than 8,308*l.* were paid for cinnamon duties. The particular seasons for trading in the various provinces may be ascertained by finding the months in which the greatest or least amount of duties, export and import, were paid into the customs. In the western province, the greatest amount of duties was collected in February, and the least in October ; in the northern province, the largest sum was also paid in February, and the smallest in December ; in the southern province, the month of April shows the largest sum collected, and October the least ; in the eastern province, the greatest amount appears to have been in September, and the smallest in February. Throughout the island the shipping months are the first four in the year, during the north-east monsoon. In the south-west monsoon, from May to September, few vessels arrive at Colombo, the roads being considered unsafe for them at that season.

The number of British vessels which entered the port of Colombo between the years 1833 and 1837 does not appear to have increased, however much the trade of the island may have improved in that period. In 1833 there were 36 British ships entered at Colombo, with a tonnage of 11,650 tons. In the following year there were but 29 arrivals of 10,045 tons. In 1835 the number of entries was 28, the tonnage of which amounted to 9,085. In the succeeding year no more than 24 British vessels arrived in the port, with a tonnage of 7,630 ; and in 1837 there were 29 ships entered with a tonnage of 10,300.

Foreign vessels are very irregular in their arrival, owing to the

uncertainty which is attached to their transactions in our produce, arising both from variations in the state of the two markets, and from their inability to traffic on the island with their own articles. In 1833 the number of foreign vessels, chiefly French, which entered Colombo, was 7. In 1834, 4 arrived. The following year shows an entry of 10 vessels. In 1836 only 2 appear to have touched at the island ; but in 1837 their number increased to 11. The chief and almost only produce which they ship is cinnamon, for which they pay either in Company's rupees, or with clarets and fancy goods which they leave on the Coromandel coast to be brought down in native or British vessels.

By the preceding facts, it would appear that the trade of Ceylon had been at a stand still for some years past, which, however, is far from being the case. The fact is, that in the above returns of shipping there have been included many vessels which have only touched at the island for water and provisions either on their way to or from India, and it is in these that the falling off has taken place, and not in the regular traders from England, which, on the contrary, have been annually increasing, as will be seen by reference to the following table of arrivals from various countries.

From	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833
England	15	11	10	9	8
Ditto (not trading to Ceylon).	—	1	3	3	6
France	5	3	6	2	3
Indian Ports	14	10	13	13	26
Mauritius	8	1	3	5	3
Other Places	—	—	3	1	4
Total	43	26	38	33	50

This table has been compiled with care from official records, and may be considered as a pretty fair statement of our commercial shipping. It is, however, widely different from the account of vessels entering Colombo as stated by Mr. M'Culloch in his Commercial Dictionary, upon the authority of the Returns put forth by the Board of Trade. According to this statement there were, in 1830, 11 arrivals from Great Britain ; from British colonies and India, 878, and from foreign states the number is stated to have been 169 ; 878 vessels from British colonies and India would be far beyond the truth, if every craft and fishing-boat were to be included. In that number, however, are no doubt included all the native traders : besides which, many vessels are in the habit of going over to the coast of India to take in part of their cargo, and return to fill up at Colombo, and it is probable that each of these entries into harbour is put down as a distinct vessel, a practice that is calculated to mislead a stranger on the subject of our commerce. As to the return of 169 vessels from foreign states, there is a still grosser mistake. No person resident on the island could suppose that more than a tithe of that number ever arrives here.*

* These mis-statements must arise from the manner in which the accounts are made up by the local government, as the returns published by the Board of Trade for more recent years exhibit the same errors.—Ed.

The following is a Return of the number of vessels that passed through the Pamban channel, which forms the northern entrance into the Gulf of Manar, and the passage between Ceylon and the adjoining continent, in the years 1837 and 1838.

MONTHS.	1837.				1838.			
	Vessels.	Dhonies.	Total.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Dhonies.	Total.	Tonnage.
January . . .	2	18	20	843	3	18	21	985
February . . .	1	31	32	830	3	38	41	2,035
March . . .	4	48	52	2,580	4	48	52	2,580
April . . .	6	84	90	4,370	6	164	170	8,811
May. . .	4	37	41	2,164	4	57	61	3,095
June . . .	8	34	42	1,640	11	56	67	3,700
July. . .	9	37	46	1,820	17	54	71	3,132
August . . .	17	29	46	2,127	22	134	156	6,500
September . . .	18	48	66	2,134	24	118	142	5,855
October . . .	13	42	55	2,840	20	107	127	5,681
November . . .	9	58	67	2,730	17	126	143	5,849
December . . .	2	22	24	1,256	5	36	41	1,782
Total . . .	93	488	581	25,334	136	956	1,092	50,005

The number of fishing boats in the island has been estimated at 1,800, and this cannot be far from the truth, if we consider the population of the island, and the vast numbers who live chiefly upon the produce of the fisheries. Each of these little canoes is worth about 50 dollars, or 4*l.*, which gives, as the amount of capital invested in the fishing trade, 7,200*l.* for boats, and perhaps 5,000*l.* for nets, sails and other implements: from the employment of this sum of 12,200*l.*, government derives an income of 6,000*l.* or 7,000*l.* a-year, a most grievous tax upon the poorer classes, who are the principal consumers of fish. By an order in council the poor fisherman is compelled to carry his cargo to licensed bazaars, and sell it by public auction, in order that the farmer of the tax may receive his full per centage. The consequence of this is that a great portion of the fish is spoiled by being carried through the streets exposed to a tropical sun; which evil might be obviated either by permitting the fish to be sold on or near the beach, or else by abolishing the present duty altogether, and substituting for it a licence for all boats engaged in fishing. The latter would be far preferable, as it would cheapen fish and throw more boats into the trade.

The present supposed population of Ceylon has been alluded to in a former part of this paper in connexion with the taxation of the island. I say *supposed*, because although official returns are annually made from each district, there is so little confidence to be placed in them, that they can be looked upon only as approximations to the truth. Much of this incorrectness arises from the apathy of the parties entrusted with the collection of the census, and much also from the ignorant prejudices of the natives, who imagine that their European masters have some sinister design in examining their numbers and occupations thus closely. This jealousy will however wear off with time and enlighten-

ment, and it may be hoped that our Government will evince a little more zeal in the cause of statistics, and give us some more carefully collected data by which we may arrive at a satisfactory conclusion with regard to the present condition of Ceylon.

A Table of the Labouring Population of Ceylon, compiled from Official Returns, showing the division of Occupation in each Province.

Provinces.	1833			1834		
	Agriculture.	Manufactures.	Commerce.	Agriculture.	Manufactures.	Commerce.
Western	165,498	7,780	10,538	157,980	11,846	12,150
Southern	78,412	8,495	10,744	80,441	10,858	8,750
Eastern	9,733	1,256	2,610	9,514	2,583	980
Northern	59,208	5,399	20,820	66,222	14,902	20,991
Central	41,608	2,087	2,390	42,051	1,905	2,162
Total	354,459	25,017	47,102	356,208	42,094	45,033

Provinces.	1835			1837*		
	Agriculture.	Manufactures.	Commerce.	Agriculture.	Manufactures.	Commerce.
Western	111,601	13,391	11,456	233,212	39,255	45,445
Southern	71,694	11,366	9,040	88,447	15,422	13,545
Eastern	8,930	3,017	1,427	10,197	1,932	1,439
Northern	67,662	18,992	12,454	67,662	18,992	12,344
Central	84,727	3,931	8,531	60,000	2,000	3,110
Total	344,614	50,697	42,908	459,518	77,601	75,883

The following is the proportion which the labourers of Ceylon bear to the entire population, according to the preceding table, for the year 1837, which was the last census.

Provinces.	Agricultural.	Manufacturing.	Commercial.
Western	44 per cent.	8 per cent.	9 per cent.
Southern	33 ,,	6 ,,	5 ,,
Eastern	19 ,,	3½ ,,	2½ ,,
Northern	28 ,,	7½ ,,	5 ,,
Central	36 ,,	1½ ,,	1½ ,,

In the year 1833 the agricultural population averaged 14 to the square mile; the manufacturing 1, and the commercial 1½. In 1834 the former and the latter remained in the same proportion, but the manufacturing averaged 1½, and in the following year 2; both the others remaining nearly the same. In 1837, however, we find that the population engaged in agriculture rose to 18½ to the square mile, in manufac-

* There was no census in 1836.

tures it was 3, and the same with those employed in commerce. It would appear by these facts that every branch of industry had received a stimulus in the latter year, more especially agriculture. This improvement was particularly visible in the Kandyan, or Central Province, and it arose from the large tracts of land which were being planted with coffee on every side, both by natives and Europeans, but especially by the latter, who are now beginning to appreciate the capabilities of the Ceylon soil for this plant as well as for sugar. In 1834 there were not more than three coffee estates belonging to Europeans, whilst at the present moment there are upwards of twenty planted with trees, as many more in the course of formation, and three yielding crops. A sugar plantation has been formed near Kandy, and seems to answer every expectation formed of it. A few months ago the first sample of Ceylon sugar was sent home from this estate, and it was pronounced by several West India planters to be equal to the finest Jamaica. By far the largest portion of the manufactures of our island is carried on in the Western Province, and consists in the production of oil and rope from the kernel and the husk of the cocoa-nut. The value and consumption of both these articles have risen considerably at home of late years, and have held out additional inducements to the indolent native to exert himself in their cultivation and manufacture.

Contributions to the Economical Statistics of Birmingham. By a local Sub-Committee.*

[*Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, 29th August, 1839.*]

In illustration of the Commercial Statistics of the borough of Birmingham, we have the pleasure to lay before this Section :—

1. A Return from the Savings' Bank, from its Establishment in 1827 to the present time.
2. A Return of the Quantity of Silver and Gold Manufactures assayed and marked, or cut as impure, at the Birmingham Assay Office, from its establishment in 1773.
3. A classified Return of the Expenditure at the Birmingham Workhouse, with the average Number of Cases of In and Out-poor in each Year, from 1822 to 1838.
4. A Return of the Assessed Taxes collected in Birmingham ; showing the Number of Objects assessed, and the amount of Duty received in each year, from 1817 to 1838.
5. A Return of the Steam-power employed in the Borough of Birmingham, from the Year 1774 to 1838.
6. A Return of the Occupations of 791 Members of a Provident Institution ; and
7. A Return of the Weekly Wages of 662 Mechanics in Birmingham.

As some of these Papers hardly possess sufficient general interest to justify our addressing an assemblage like the present, on the subjects to which they refer, we propose to confine our observations to the last three of these Returns, having first disposed of the other four by a brief reference to their contents.†

* See p. 290.

† For the same reason, and on account of the voluminous nature of some of these